

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system for a vehicle having a front and tail end, said vehicle including a vehicle body having a door opening and a sliding door, comprising:

a guide rail which can be mounted on or in the vehicle body in the proximity of the door opening,

a guide element which is displaceable along the guide rail and which is connected to the sliding door by way of a holding arm,

a line receiving means of pivotably interconnected members for receiving and guiding electric lines from a connection on the vehicle body to a connection at the sliding door, wherein the line receiving means is guided in said guide rail,

characterised in that the line receiving means is arranged in the guide rail and is directed towards the front or the tail end of the vehicle, and includes a deflection region by which the line receiving means is deflected through a given angle in a given direction upon displacement of said line receiving means in a direction towards said front or said tail end of the vehicle, and

connected to the deflection region is a channel-shaped guide in which the deflected portion of the line receiving means extends as a first and forms a substantially semicircular arc of a predetermined radius with a second run, the end of which is connected stationarily to the vehicle body,

wherein displacement of the line receiving means through the curvature of the deflection at the end of the guide rail and through the substantially semicircular deflection between the first and second runs.

2. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged externally on the vehicle body in the region over which the sliding door is moved when being opened and closed, and the holding arm is arranged in ~~the~~ a rear end region of the sliding door, wherein said rear end region of said sliding door is with the front end of said holding arm directed towards the tail of the vehicle.

3. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged on or in the lower region of the vehicle body along the door opening and the holding arm is arranged at ~~the~~ a front end region of the sliding door, the said front end region of said holding arm directed towards the front of the vehicle.

4. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged on or in the upper region of the vehicle body along the door opening and the holding arm is arranged at ~~the~~ a front end region of the sliding door[,] the front end region of said holding arm directed towards the front of the vehicle.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that in its front end region which is directed towards the front of the vehicle the guide rail has a substantially horizontally extending curved region.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the electric lines issuing from an end of the line receiving means are passed by way of the holding arm to the sliding door.

10. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is of a channel-shaped configuration with an opening which extends in the longitudinal direction and through which the holding arm extends, and the guide element has at least one roller which is arranged in the channel-shaped guide rail rotatably about a substantially horizontal axis and is mounted to the holding arm.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the deflection region for the line receiving means is provided at the rear end, which is directed towards the tail of the vehicle, of the guide rail, by which it is deflected through a given angle in a given direction upon displacement in a direction towards the tail of the vehicle.

14. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the means for deflection of the line receiving means is the end of the guide rail, which is directed towards an end of the vehicle.

15. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the deflection of the first run of the line receiving means at the end of the guide rail ~~,which is directed towards an end of the vehicle, forms~~ is effected at an angle with the guide rail of about 90° to about 180°.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the line receiving means which is guided substantially horizontally in adjacent relationship with the sliding door is effected in the deflection region into a substantially vertical direction.

18. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the channel-shaped guide is in the form of an elongate substantially parallelepipedic guide housing, in the one end of which there is provided an opening for the passage therethrough of the deflected portion of the line receiving means and in which the respective outwardly facing sides of the runs are guided at two oppositely disposed longitudinal sides.

19. (Original) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the channel-shaped guide is arranged in a pillar of the vehicle body.

20-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that, to guide the sliding door, at least one second guide rail is arranged on the vehicle body in the upper and/or lower region along the door opening, with a second guide element which is displaceable along the second guide rail and which is connected by way of a second holding arm to the front region of the sliding door, which is directed towards the front of the vehicle.

26. (Cancelled)